

*Copy*  
PATENT

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December 29, 2001  
DateAyesha S. Wilks

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal	Attorney Docket No.: 501082.13 (98-0616.12)
Serial No. : 09/652,968	Group Art Unit : 2815
Filed : August 31, 2000	Examiner : Jose R. Diaz
Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE	

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.114**

Box RCE  
Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant requests continued examination, under 37 C.F.R. 1.114, of the above-identified application.

**1. Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. 1.114**

- a.  Submission previously submitted
  - i.  Consider the amendment/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii.  Consider the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- b.  Submission enclosed
  - i.  Amendment/Reply
  - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

**2. Suspension of Action** (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i) required)

Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_ months.

**3. Accompanying Papers**

- Postcard  
 Check  
 Fee Transmittal Sheet  
 Petition

**4. Deposit Account**

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required in the above-identified patent application to Deposit Account No. 50-1266.

Date: 29 Oct. 01

Respectfully submitted,

By:

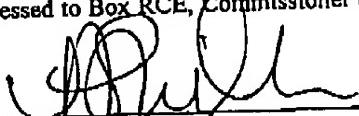
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PATENT

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October 29, 2001  
Date

  
Ayesha S. Wilks

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AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 43, 44, 76 and 77 as follows:

43. (Amended) A method of passivating a multiplayer conductive structure, comprising:  
layering a first conductive material;  
introducing a selection of N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, and NH<sub>3</sub> plasma to said first conductive material;  
releasing nitrogen from said plasma with electromagnetic energy;  
and